

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 AGR-10 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00

DODE-00 FRB-01 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 L-02 LAB-04 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-02 AID-05 CIEP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TAR-01

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DEPARTMENT PASS DEPARTMENTS LABOR, COMMERCE, TREASURY, STR

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: ETRD, GATT

SUBJECT: MTN: CUSTOMS CLASSIFICATION AND VALUATION

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF MEMCON BETWEEN U.S. MTN DEL (LAMAR, HEISE AND HOLMES) AND EC(HUYSMANS) AND CUSTOMS CLASSIFICATION AND VALUATION.

2. QUOTE. MEETING WITH EC REQUESTED BY HARRY LAMAR FROM STAFF OF WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE. LAMAR BROUGHT TO HUYSMANS' ATTENTION U.S. TRADE ACT PROVISION (SEC 608) CALLING FOR U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND U.S. INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION TO INVESTIGATE AND REPORT ON PRINCIPLES AND CONCEPTS OF AN INTERNATIONAL COMMODITY CODE WHICH COULD BE USED FOR BOTH CUSTOMS AS WELL AS IMPORT, PRODUCTION AND EXPORT STATISTICAL PURPOSES.

HUYSMANS SAID HE NOT AWARE OF THIS PROVISION; HAD HEARD POSSIBILITY U.S. MIGHT MOVE TO THE BT..

LAMAR RESPONDED THAT IT WOULD BE IN HIS VIEW WRONG FOR U.S. TO ADHERE TO THE BTN, WHICH IN PART ANTIQUATED, AND MIGHT SHORTLY BE REPLACED BY INTERNATIONAL HARMONIZED COMMODITY CODE.

LAMAR SAID THAT U.S. CHANGE TO NEW NOMENCLATURE AND VALUATION WOULD NORMALLY BE EXPECTED TO FOLLOW THE USUAL LEGISLA-

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TIVE PROCESS. NOW, HOWEVER, HE WAS NOT SURE THAT TRADE ACT

PROCESS FOR LEGISLATIVE APPROVAL COULDN'T BE USED. HE SAID HE WOULD BE LOOKING INTO THIS POSSIBILITY.

HUYSMANS AGREED THAT BTN WAS IN SAME MEASURE OUTDATED, BUT DOUBTED CCC WOULD COMPLETE HARMONIZED CODE IN TIME FOR RESULTS OF MTN TO BE EXPRESSED IN THAT CODE. HEISE ASKED WHAT ACTUAL TIME-FRAME WAS BEING CONSIDERED. HUYSMANS RESPONDED THAT CODE WOULD NOT BE DONE UNTIL 1980.

HOLMES ASKED HUYSMANS WHETHER EC WOULD AGREE REPLACE BTN WITH HARMONIZED CODE. HUYSMANS UNABLE PREDICT WHAT EC WOULD DO.

HUYSMANS WONDERED WHETHER IN THE MTNS U.S. WOULD BE NEGOTIATING ON THE BASIS OF BTN CONCORDANCE. MR LAMAR THOUGHT IT WOULD, PROMISED THAT HUYSMANS WOULD RECEIVE THE LATEST VERSION OF THAT CONCORDANCE.

MESSRS. LAMAR AND HUYSMANS AGREED THAT THEIR TWO GOVERNMENTS SHOULD URGE THE CCC TO SPEED ITS WORK ON THE HARMONIZED CODE.

IN BRIEF DISCUSSION OF VALUATION, HUYSMANS NOTED THAT EC COMMISSION HAD BEEN IN FAVOR OF PERMITTING FOB VALUATION IN BRUSSELS DEFINITION, BUT HAD NOT BEEN ABLE TO PERSUADE ALL EC MEMBER STATES. CTIP WORK ON CUSTOMS VALUATION, HE NOTED, CALLED FOR ONE DEFINITION OF VALUE -- BUT NOT NECESSARILY THE BRUSSELS DEFINITION. END QUOTE.
DALE

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